



Accessible Registries of Rights Information
and Orphan Works towards Europeana

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The ARROW project presents its results: Substantial benefits from using ARROW in retrieving copyright information compared to manual search

Brussels, 10 March 2011. The ARROW Consortium presented today the project results at a conference at the Residence Palace¹ in Brussels. The event which also counted French National Librarian Bruno Racine and Chair of the Europeana foundation the German National Librarian Dr. Elisabeth Niggemann among its speakers was opened by European Commission Vice President and Digital Agenda Commissioner Neelie Kroes.

In her opening speech Commissioner Kroes commended ARROW as a unique collaboration of 29 organisations representing all stakeholders. She said that her vision is that One search in ARROW should be all that it is needed to determine the copyright status of cultural works in Europe. If it were embedded in the forthcoming Directive on orphan works, ARROW could become the official portal in Europe where you can find essential rights information and do automated searches of rightholders and copyrights. She concluded that ARROW's potential was huge and that it was leading the way to show how stakeholders can work together towards the digital future.

In his intervention, Bruno Racine expressed his support for ARROW and pointed out that the BNF had been one of the initiators and mainstays of ARROW.

Dr. Elisabeth Niggemann said that Europeana needs ARROW to be able to include more copyrighted material that at the moment represents a very small percentage of the current Europeana content.

Piero Attanasio of ARROW gave a practical demonstration of how ARROW functions and IFRRO Chief Executive Olav Stokkmo introduced the ARROW Business and funding models. He also presented the substantial time and cost benefits of using ARROW compared to the traditional manual search for copyright information which had been revealed by the system validation carried out in pilot countries under the leadership of the University Library of Innsbruck (UIBK). Time savings varied from 72% in the Spanish pilot to 97% in the UK. In large digitisation projects time savings at this level represent substantial cost reductions - for libraries as well as others who need to retrieve copyright information on books.

Piero Attanasio, the head of the ARROW project management team, expressed his satisfaction with the project results which he underlined was a product of a true collaborative effort of the

¹ <http://www.arrow-net.eu/event/conference-presentation-arrow.html>

stakeholders involved. He echoed Neelie Kroes by stating that the ARROW project had indeed been unique, in so far as it had been partnered by all relevant stakeholders: libraries, creators, publishers, RROs (collective management organisations for text and image based works) as well as standards organisations and business and technology developers. These partners have put substantial human and financial capital into developing ARROW, in addition to the European Commission sponsoring of it.

ARROW was originally developed for book searches. Attanasio noted that it will now be taken further through the ARROW plus project with 33 partners and external supporters from 17 EU Member States. This project will also be co-financed by the European Commission. Through ARROW plus the use of the system will be broadened, to include more countries and, said Attanasio, we will examine how it can to be used for visual material and be refined to meet new requirements.

For additional information on the ARROW project, please contact

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Note for editors

ARROW - Accessible Registries of Rights Information and Orphan Works towards the EDL – a consortium of European national libraries, publishers and collective management organisations, also representing writers – working through their main European associations and a number of national organisations – is a targeted project co-funded under the European Commission's **eContentplus Programme** (see http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/econtentplus/index_en.htm) which seeks to help make digital content in Europe more accessible, usable and exploitable.